DC
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BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BUTT OUT, BATMAN! I'LL KNOCK OFF THIS JOKER FIRST--
--THEN-- I'LL HAPPILY DO THE SAME TO YOU!
HAHAHAHA
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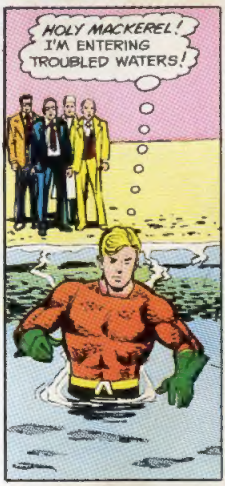

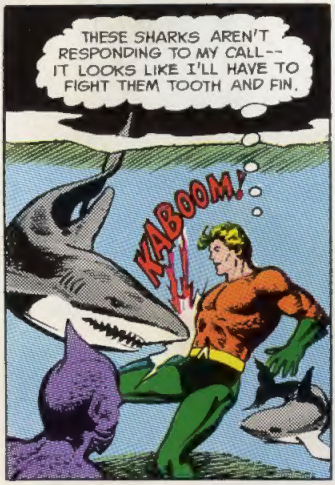

AQUAMAN, YOU LAND LOVER! HUMANS POLLUTE OUR HOMES, AND NOW I'M GETTING EVEN. IF YOU TAKE A STAND AGAINST ME, IT WILL BE YOUR OWN DOWNFALL.
SLUD-JAK, YOU'RE FIGHTING DIRTY!! BESIDES, TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT. NOW TRY MY RIGHT ON FOR SIZE.
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BAT MAN
HAHAHA
HA HA HA
HA HA
WITH THAT WHIRLING, PSYCHEDELIC LIGHT BOUNCING AROUND, HOW CAN I TELL THE REAL JOKER FROM HIS REFLECTIONS -- BEFORE HE PULLS THAT TRIGGER?
"The JOKER'S PLAYGROUND of PERIL!"
STORY: DENNY O'NEIL (ASSISTED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ & E. NELSON BRIDWELL) ART: IRV NOVICK & BOB WIACEK

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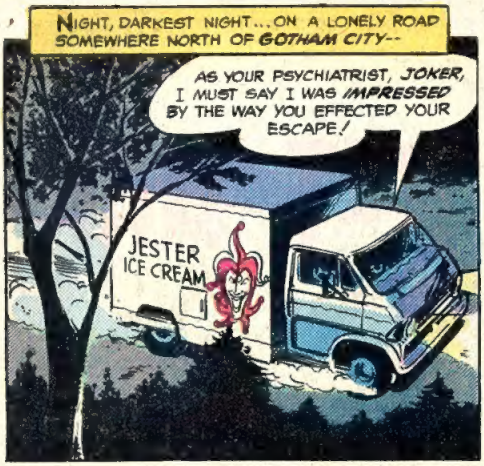
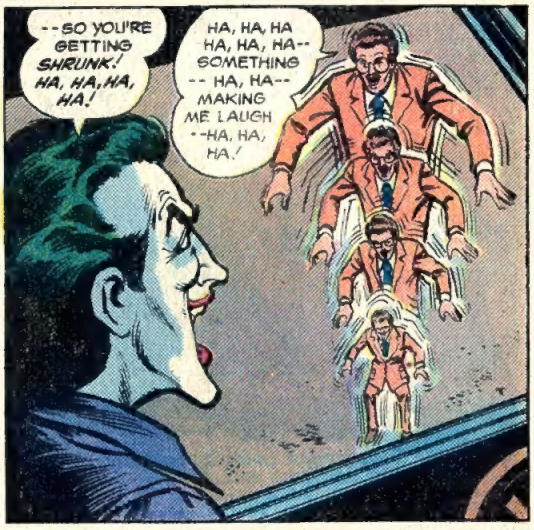
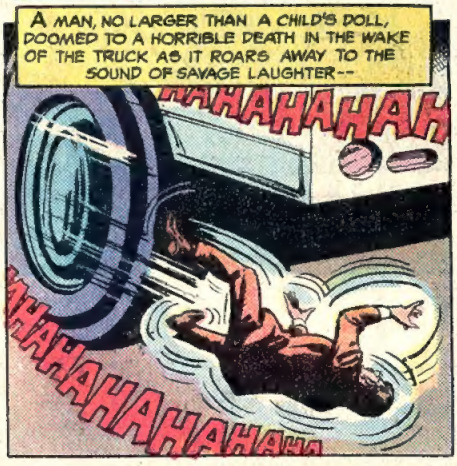
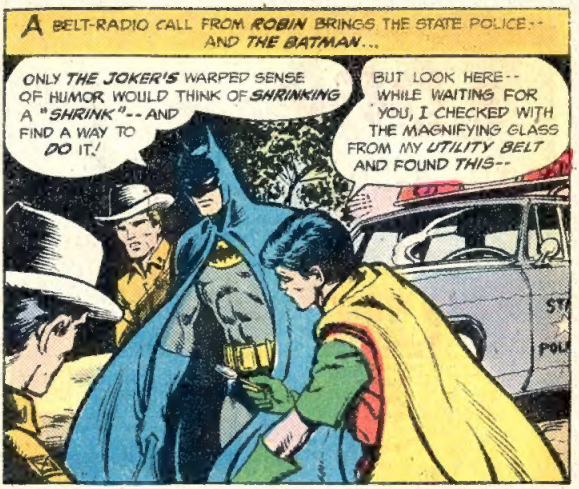


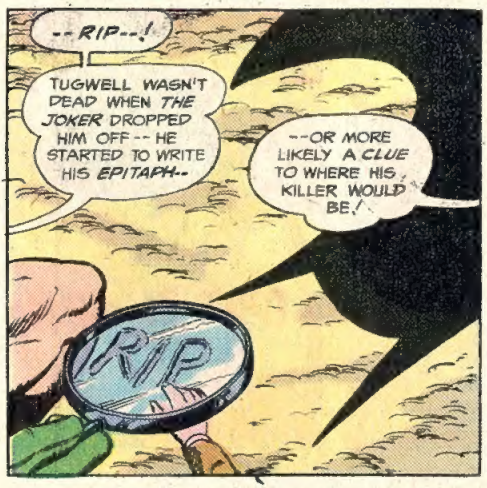



A MAN, NO LARGER THAN A CHILD'S DOLL, DOOMED TO A HORRIBLE DEATH IN THE WAKE OF THE TRUCK AS IT ROARS AWAY TO THE SOUND OF SAVAGE LAUGHTER--
HAHAHAH

MEANWHILE, AT GOTHAM POLICE HEADQUARTERS, IN RESPONSE TO A FAMILIAR SUMMONS...
HOW URGENT IS IT, COMMISSIONER?
PLENTY!
ONE OF OUR MEN SPOTTED PIERRE FRAGE ENTERING THE COUNTRY!
FRAGE THE FENCE--THE WORLD'S MOST WANTED DEALER IN STOLEN JEWELS?
THAT'S THE BOY!
WHAT'S WORSE--HE'S WANGLED AN INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL "REVELRY IN THE PARK" CHARITY AFFAIR TOMORROW NIGHT!
WE SUSPECT HE'LL BE THERE TO MAKE A BUY... BUT WE DON'T KNOW FROM WHOM!
WE CAN'T ARREST HIM ON SUSPICION--
--SO YOU'D LIKE ME TO HELP KEEP AN EYE OR TWO ON HIM, RIGHT?
I'LL BE THERE--
--COUNT ON IT!
MEANTIME, A COLORFULLY-CLAD YOUTH TOOLS HIS MOTORCYCLE ONTO A SIDE ROAD...
THE TRAFFIC IS MURDER! IT WILL TAKE HOURS TO REACH GOTHAM ON THE THROUGHWAY--
--BUT FORTUNATELY, I KNOW A SHORTCUT!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT IN THE ROAD? A DOLL OR--?
SKREEEEEEEEE

OH, MY GOD--IT'S DR. TUGWELL, THE PSYCHIATRIST AT ARKHAM ASYLUM!
FROM THE HIDEOUS LAUGH FROZEN ON HIS FACE, I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS TWICE WHICH OF HIS PATIENTS DID HIM IN!


A BELT-RADIO CALL FROM ROBIN BRINGS THE STATE POLICE--AND THE BATMAN...
ONLY THE JOKER'S WARPED SENSE OF HUMOR WOULD THINK OF SHRINKING A "SHRINK"--AND FIND A WAY TO DO IT!
BUT LOOK HERE--WHILE WAITING FOR YOU, I CHECKED WITH THE MAGNIFYING GLASS FROM MY UTILITY BELT AND FOUND THIS--


--RIP--!
TUGWELL WASN'T DEAD WHEN THE JOKER DROPPED HIM OFF--HE STARTED TO WRITE HIS EPITAPH--
--OR MORE LIKELY A CLUE TO WHERE HIS KILLER WOULD BE!
RIP

RIP--"REVELRY IN PARK"!
IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE THAT HOMICIDAL HARLEQUIN TO TELL HIS VICTIM HIS PLANS BEFORE KILLING HIM!
I'LL BE AT THAT R.I.P. AFFAIR TOMORROW NIGHT--

WHEN I HEARD THE JOKER WAS LOOSE, I DECIDED TO GET IN ON THE ACTION!
SO DICK GRAYSON'S OFFICIALLY IN WASHINGTON, DOING SOME RESEARCH IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS! A "DYNAMITE" FRIEND IN THE CAPITAL WILL COVER FOR ME!*
ALL RIGHT--GUESS I CAN USE SOME HELP! BUT THE MINUTE WE'RE THROUGH--
--BACK YOU GO!

*THE OTHER HALF OF THE "DYNAMITE DUO"--BARBARA (BATGIRL) GORDON! --JULIE

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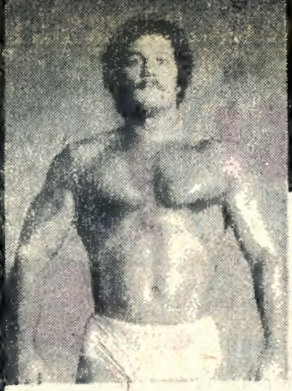

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PARKSIDE PLAYGROUND
I WISH THEY'D CHOSEN A DIFFERENT KIND OF AFFAIR TO RAISE MONEY!
ALL THESE MASKS AND COSTUMES ONLY MAKE OUR JOB HARDER!
ROBIN! THAT MAN OVER BY THE TUNNEL OF LOVE...DRESSED AS THE JOKER! I WONDER--?
AW, COME ON--HE WOULDN'T DARE--!
HE MIGHT! COMING DRESSED AS HIMSELF IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF STUNT THAT WOULD APPEAL TO HIS WARPED SENSE OF HUMOR!
STAY PUT... I'LL CHECK HIM OUT!
HE'S SPOTTED ME... AND HE'S RUNNING!
NO INNOCENT PERSON HAS ANY REASON TO FEAR ME--!
TUNNEL
EH--? SOME CHAP DRESSED AS THE BATMAN --CHASING A JOKER! PART OF THE ENTERTAINMENT, NO DOUBT!
OH, I HOPE NOT! I'D MUCH RATHER THEY WERE GENUINE! REAL LIFE IS SO MUCH MORE EXCITING!
OUTA MY WAY, BLAST YOU!
WHAT'S A BIG IDEA...
ONCE IN THE TUNNEL, HE'LL BE IN A PERFECT POSITION FOR AN AMBUSH!

TOO LATE! HE'S INSIDE ...AND PROBABLY SETTING A TRAP FOR ME!
TUNNEL OF LOVE TICKETS
LISTEN, FELLA...IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY INTO THE TUNNEL?
SURE...ONLY I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
YOU DON'T HAVE TO! JUST DO AS I SAY!
YOU'LL LUV THE TUNNEL OF LOVE!
MOMENTS LATER...A BOAT BEARING A CAPED FIGURE GLIDES FORWARD--TOWARD A WAITING GUN--!
THOUGHT YOU'D CATCH ME UNAWARE, HUH? WELL, YOU WERE WRONG!
BAM
BAM
BAM
I'VE LIVED IN MORTAL AGONY... AFRAID YOU'D-- EHH?
A DUMMY--?!?
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN--
--THE BATMAN WOULDN'T BE STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL INTO YOUR TRAP--
--NOT WHEN IT'S SO SATISFYING TO FALL ON TOP OF YOU!
WHACK!
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE-- EUHH!
SPLASH!

NO MISTAKE-- INNOCENT MEN DON'T RUN FROM THE LAW!
I TELL YOU, I'M NOT THE JOKER!
SEE--THE JOKER NEVER WEARS A MUSTACHE! AND THIS GREEN HAIR IS A WIG! I'M HARRISON STEAKBURY--
YES...I RECOGNIZE YOU NOW! YOU'RE THE LAWYER WHO DEFENDED THE JOKER AT HIS LAST TRIAL!
BUT I KNEW YOU WEREN'T THAT CLOWN WHEN YOU USED AN ORDINARY GUN! THAT'S NOT HIS STYLE!
I'M SORRY I PANICKED.. BUT I WAS CONVINCED YOU WERE THE JOKER!
DRESSING AS THE BATMAN WOULD BE HIS KIND OF TWISTED PRANK!
AND YOU'RE SCARED OF HIM?
YOU BET I AM! AFTER ALL, I LOST HIS CASE... AND HE'S NOT THE FORGIVING TYPE!
IF YOU WANT TO BE SAFE, STAY IN PLAIN SIGHT... AND STAY OUT OF DARK TUNNELS!
GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE IN ONE PIECE, BATMAN! I WAS AFRAID THE JOKER'D WASTE YOU LIKE HE DID THAT PSYCHIATRIST, DR. TUGWELL!
I'M SURE HE'D LIKE TO...HE'S CERTAINLY TRIED OFTEN ENOUGH!
THERE YOU ARE, BATMAN!
TUNNEL
FRAGE JUST CAME THROUGH THE GATE, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! I'VE GOT A MAN TAILING HIM!
ANY SIGN OF THE JOKER YET, COMMISSIONER?
NONE! ALL THE INVITATIONS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR... AND NOBODY GETS PAST MY MEN WITHOUT ONE!
TUNNEL OF LOVE
MAYBE WE WERE WRONG ABOUT HIM COMING...

MAYBE... BUT I DON'T THINK SO!
BLAST IT, HE COULD BE ANYBODY--EVEN YOU!
IF THAT'S A JOKE, BATMAN, YOU'VE LOST YOUR SENSE OF HUMOR!
I WON'T NEED IT-- THE JOKER WILL TAKE CARE OF THE LAUGHS!
COMMISSIONER--!
PIERRE FRAGE JUST GAVE US THE SLIP... DUCKED OUT THROUGH A SIDE DOOR OF THE FUNHOUSE!
WELL, DON'T STAND AROUND-- FAN OUT... SEARCH EVERYWHERE! FIND HIM!
SNIFF... SNIFF!
COMMISSIONER... I SMELL SMOKE!
THE GIANT SLIDING BOARD... IT'S ON FIRE!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A LITTLE GIRL TRAPPED UP THERE!
I'LL RING THE ALARM!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT!
COMMISSIONER... FIND ROBIN! TELL HIM TO KEEP THE MAN DRESSED AS THE JOKER IN SIGHT!
I'M GOING FOR THAT CHILD!
THE ENTRANCE IS ALREADY AFLAME... IN ABOUT A MINUTE THE FIRE WILL CUT OFF THE SLIDE, TOO!
--WHICH GIVES ME LESS THAN SIXTY SECONDS--
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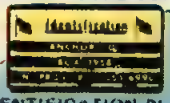

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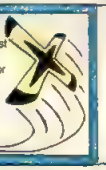

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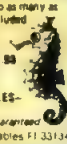

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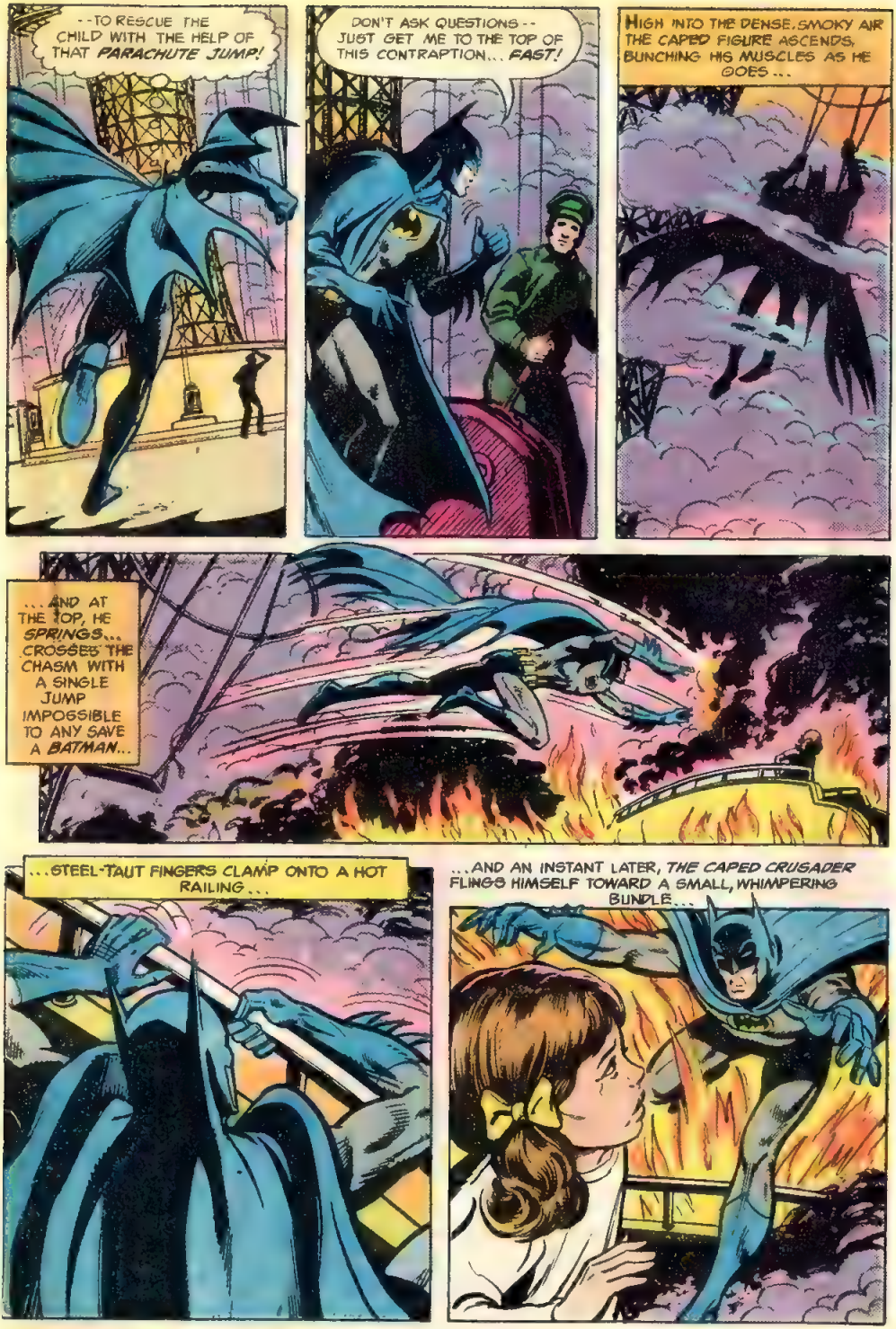
--TO RESCUE THE CHILD WITH THE HELP OF THAT PARACHUTE JUMP!
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS -- JUST GET ME TO THE TOP OF THIS CONTRAPTION... FAST!
HIGH INTO THE DENSE, SMOKY AIR THE CAPED FIGURE ASCENDS, BUNCHING HIS MUSCLES AS HE GOES...
...AND AT THE TOP, HE SPRINGS... CROSSES THE CHASM WITH A SINGLE JUMP IMPOSSIBLE TO ANY SAVE A BATMAN...
...STEEL-TAUT FINGERS CLAMP ONTO A HOT RAILING...
...AND AN INSTANT LATER, THE CAPED CRUSADER FLINGS HIMSELF TOWARD A SMALL, WHIMPERING BUNDLE...

MOMMY... MOMMY... I WANT MY MAMA!
I'LL TAKE YOU TO HER, HONEY... DON'T BE SCARED! WE'RE GOING ON A LITTLE TRIP...
I WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU!
I CAN'T CHANCE JUMPING BACK TO THE PARACHUTE TOWER WITH HER WEIGHT IN MY ARMS...
...BUT LUCKILY MY CLOAK'S STILL DAMP FROM THE DUNKING IN THE TUNNEL...
...AND THAT GIVES US ANOTHER WAY TO GO--
--STRAIGHT DOWN THROUGH THE BLAZE!
THE WET CAPE WILL PROTECT US-- I HOPE!
AND A TENSE FEW SECONDS LATER...
MOMMY!
THANK HEAVENS, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
BATMAN--
--I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU--
HOLD IT, COMMISSIONER... I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING! FRAGE REAPPEARED TO WATCH THE FIRE... HE STOOD NEAR THE MAN IN THE JOKER COSTUME...
...THEN HE WANDERED OFF TOWARD THE FUN HOUSE AGAIN! THAT'S WHERE HE IS AT THIS MOMENT...
YES... AND ROBIN'S KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM! BUT HOW THE DEVIL DID YOU KNOW?
YOU COULDN'T HAVE SEEN IT ALL!

CONTINUED ON PAGE NOTOWNG

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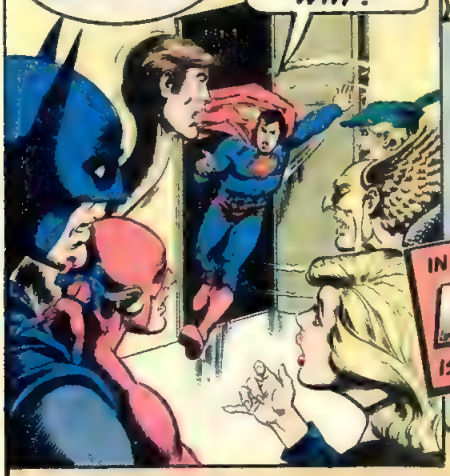

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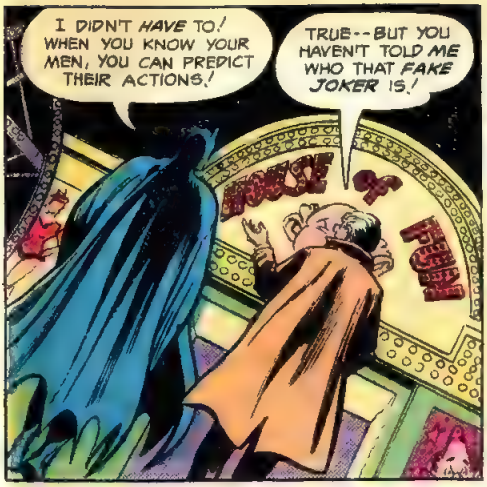
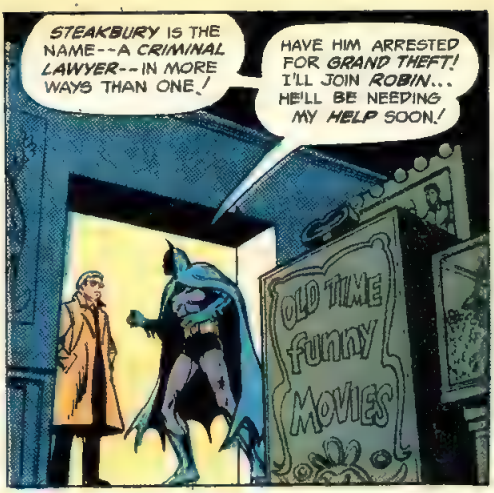
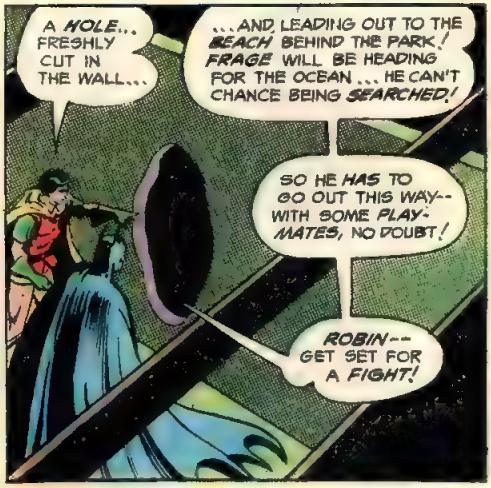

I DIDN'T HAVE TO! WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR MEN, YOU CAN PREDICT THEIR ACTIONS!
TRUE--BUT YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME WHO THAT FAKE JOKER IS!

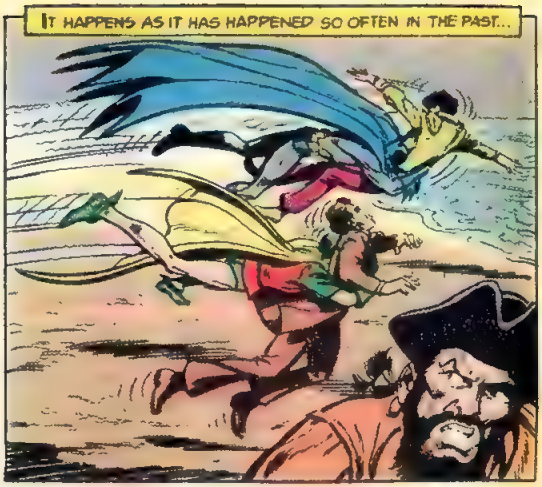

STEAKBURY IS THE NAME--A CRIMINAL LAWYER--IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
HAVE HIM ARRESTED FOR GRAND THEFT! I'LL JOIN ROBIN... HE'LL BE NEEDING MY HELP SOON!
OLD TIME Funny MOVIES

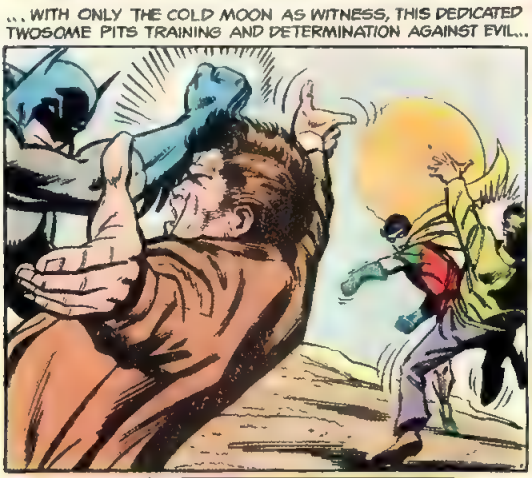
MAN, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A HAND WITH THAT RESCUE!
GORDON INSISTED I FOLLOW FRAGE, THOUGH...
GOOD YOU DID! THAT'S HIM IN THE BLACKBEARD OUTFIT?

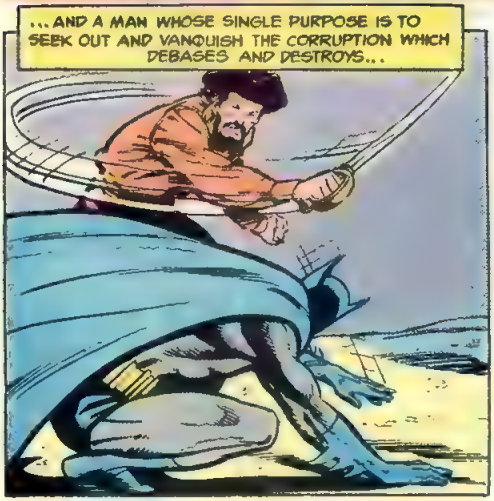
RIGHT! HE HASN'T BUDGED FROM THAT SHOOTING GALLERY!
HE WILL! WATCH--HE'LL SOON BE GOING BEHIND THE TARGET--
TEST YOUR SKILL

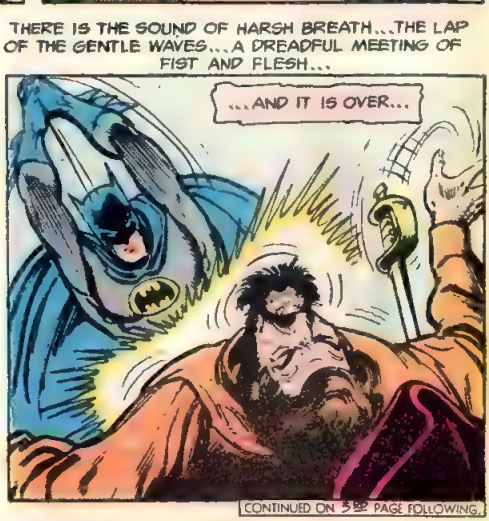
THERE HE GOES! B-BUT HOW'D YOU GUESS--?
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER--I REASONED IT!
C'MON, LET'S TAG ALONG--


A HOLE... FRESHLY CUT IN THE WALL...
...AND LEADING OUT TO THE BEACH BEHIND THE PARK! FRAGE WILL BE HEADING FOR THE OCEAN ... HE CAN'T CHANCE BEING SEARCHED!
SO HE HAS TO GO OUT THIS WAY--WITH SOME PLAY-MATES, NO DOUBT!
ROBIN--GET SET FOR A FIGHT!









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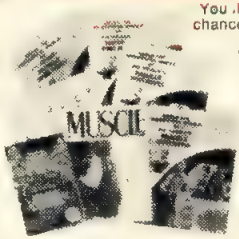

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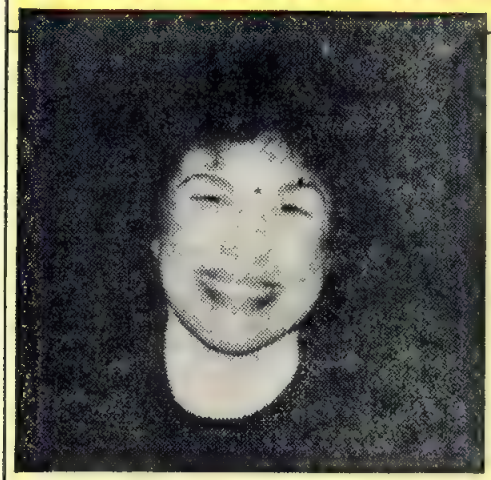


Don't panic. We're going to have a brief quiz. It will be painless. You cannot fail.

Do not think you can slip any sly lies by. This test is printed on a chemically treated paper; when it's held under the proper **Detective Comics** light it turns true blue if you're honest and fink pink if you're not.

O.K. Here we go. When you saw all those ads this month for Dollar Comics, you said:

A. "Boy, this is the greatest thing in comics since Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster gave Krypton the old heave-ho and created Superman."

B. "Rip-off! Rip-off! Rip-off! **No** comic is worth a buck."

Oh, those of you who saw the light and answered **A**—all of you, Crusaders, caped and uncaped in the cause of comicdom, DC takes you to its heart

Did you answer **B?** Be not ashamed. DC embraces you too. Your response is forgiveable, oh unenlightened ones. But harken to these following words and learn The truth shall set you free.

Many years ago, there were books of such verve and imagination that historians later called that time Comics' Golden Age. The name was truly justified. These comics were **64 pages** long. And to millions of people who bought them, they were worth their weight in gold-or silver anyway, because comics cost a dime. And so did **Time Magazine** and **Life Magazine.** In fact, the **best** newsstand publications of the day all cost about ten cents and many cost less. Find a newsdealer who's been around for thirty or forty years and ask him yourself. He'll tell you. He was thrilled to carry comics Every **Superman** he sold (and he sold plenty) meant as much profit to him as the sale of one copy of **Life.** But that was years ago. How about today?

Fellow comic reader, things are bleak. Check it out yourself.

How many newsdealers can you find who are really happy to carry comics? In fact, how many newsdealers can you find who carry comics at all?

What, you rightfully ask, has gone wrong? For the answer, let us contemplate two facts of life.

1. Since 1938, the price of living has gone up. A lot. The best things in life like movies cost fourteen times more today than they did thirty years ago.
2. If you've been in business since 1938 and you haven't raised your prices by now, then you were out of business twenty years ago.

Reasonable, huh? All right. Now try to find somewhere, somehow even the smallest semblance of a logical explanation for this second set of facts:

1938-1948: All magazines raise their prices. **Comics stay at 10 cents.**

1948-1958: Another Decade. Another whopping ten years of higher printing rates and soaring printing costs. All non-comic magazines—doing what they have to do—raise their price. Comics **remain at 10 cents.**

It took comics four more years to make the truly daring move. In 1962, we leapt boldly with both feet from a measly dime to a mind-boggling 12 cents. A 20 percent increase! What courage! What hindsight! No one seemed to notice that all the magazines with which we'd once been so proudly displayed were now selling at 3,4 and 5 times their original price.

You know the rest. How we went up from 12 cents to 15 to 20 to 25 and finally, this past year, to 30. It's not hard to read the future.

The problem is clear. Price-wise, comics are still 25 years behind the times. Even with a 30-cents cover price, there are still fewer newsdealers who **want** to carry us. And who can blame them?

And, meanwhile what's happened to all of us guys who love comics? We're getting the short-end of the stick. Each year we're paying more money for comics with fewer pages and more reprints.

How can we put a stop to it all? How can we get back to those halcyon days of **64 pages** of all new stories, **64 pages** of all new art?

How can we make sure that you, our loyal fans, get a fair shake? How can we get those thousands of turned-off dealers turned-on again?

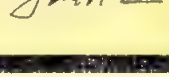
With DC's brand new **Dollar Comics!**

Listen to this brighter picture:

- Newsdealers are already preparing a little nest for us on their magazine racks. For the first time in history, they can make more money selling **World's Finest** than they can selling **Time.**
- You will be getting **80 page comics** with **all new** stories and **all new** art.
- Your Bowmar Brain will reveal that DC's **Dollar Comics** give you nearly 4 regular comics for the price of 3. They are clearly comics' best buy.

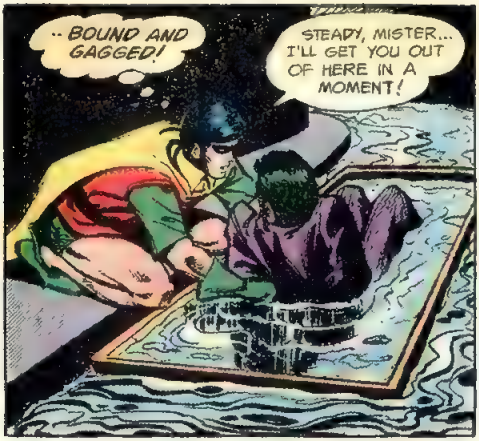
We believe that our **Dollar Comics** are the comics of the future. After all, what could be better than getting more all new stories for your money?

All of you out there—take care



AS I FIGURED... $70,000 IN THIS BUNDLE -- THE AMOUNT OF LOOT NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE JOKER'S LAST ROBBERY!
HOW'D FRAGE GET IT?
STEAKBURY GAVE IT TO HIM... PROBABLY IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME RARE GEMS! IT'S PLAIN THAT FRAGE SET THE FIRE TO DISTRACT ATTENTION...
...AND IN THE EXCITEMENT, TRADED JEWELS FOR CASH WITH THE LAWYER!
STEAKBURY WAS DOUBLECROSSING THE JOKER--?
SURE! THE JOKER HAD TO LEAVE HIS LOOT WITH SOMEONE... AND HIS ATTORNEY WAS THE LOGICAL CHOICE!
STEAKBURY PROBABLY PLANS TO SKIP THE COUNTRY... HE NEEDED HIS ILL-GOTTEN GAINS IN SMALL, PORTABLE FORM! JEWELS ARE THE PERFECT ANSWER!
HE WOULDN'T HAVE CHANCED ATTENDING THIS MASQUERADE WITH THE JOKER LOOSE UNLESS HE HAD A GOOD REASON--
-- AND WHAT BETTER REASON THAN TO MEET FRAGE... IN A CROWD, WHERE RISK OF FURTHER DOUBLECROSS WAS MINIMAL!
BATMAN! WE HAD TO RELEASE STEAKBURY...
...HE DEMANDED AN EXPLANATION -- AND HIS LEGAL RIGHTS! I COULDN'T HOLD HIM...
HMM -- ANY SIGN OF THE REAL JOKER?
ABSOLUTELY NONE! YOU COULD'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT HIM SHOWING UP HERE, BATMAN!
I WISH I COULD BE CERTAIN OF THAT! SOMETHING'S GNAWING AT THE BACK OF MY MIND...

COMMISSIONER... WAS THERE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF DR. TUGWELL'S DEATH?
WHY... NO! I CONSULTED WITH THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL! IT WAS DECIDED TO HUSH IT UP, TILL THE JOKER WAS RECAPTURED...
...THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE SO BIZARRE...
THEN I'VE BEEN A BLIND IDIOT! THE JOKER'S BEEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF US ALL THIS TIME!
COME ON, ROBIN... WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
THE HOUR IS LATE! ONLY A FEW SCATTERED CELEBRANTS REMAIN IN THE PLAYGROUND AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN RUSH TO A UNIFORMED OFFICER...
HAS STEAKBURY GONE YET?
DON'T THINK SO... HE WAS CALLED TO THE PHONE BY ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS...
...THAT ONE... OVER BY THE HOT DOG STAND!
ROBIN... GET TO THE TUNNEL OF LOVE! --AND HURRY!
A MAN'S LIFE IS AT STAKE!
HOT DOG
PUZZLED, THE TEEN WONDER HURRIES TO THE RIDE...
I WONDER WHAT BATMAN MEANT? WHOSE LIFE IS IN DANGER--?
TUNNEL OF LOVE
CLOSED
A SORT OF KNOCKING NOISE COMING FROM INSIDE...
THUMP
HARD TO MAKE ANYTHING OUT IN THIS DARK!
HMM--I CAN SEE ONE OF THE BOATS--!
IT LOOKS HALF-SUNKEN...
...AND THERE'S SOMEONE IN IT--


.. BOUND AND GAGGED!
STEADY, MISTER... I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE IN A MOMENT!

WE'LL TAKE THIS GAG FROM YOUR MOUTH AND REMOVE THOSE BONDS!
THANK GOD YOU ARRIVED--! IT WAS HORRIBLE!

HE... HE.. TOLD ME I HAD A CALL... AND WHEN WE WERE OUT OF SIGHT, HE HIT ME... SAID HE'D HEARD ABOUT MY DEAL WITH FRAGE...

... PUT ME IN THE BOAT... BORED HOLES IN THE BOTTOM... LEFT ME TO DROWN...

...AND ALL THE WHILE, HE WAS LAUGHING... LAUGHING...

MEANWHILE, ON THE MIDWAY...
WOULD'JA HURRY IT UP, FUNNY-FACE? I WANTA CLOSE!
MY GOOD CHAP, SURELY YOU WON'T DENY ME THIS GOURMET TREAT?
YOU CAN EAT IT ON THE WAY BACK TO THE ASYLUM!

BATMAN-- WILL YOU KINDLY STOP HARRASSING ME? I AM A REPUTABLE ATTORNEY--
SAVE IT! YOU WON'T FOOL ME AGAIN-- JOKER! YOU MADE ONE BLUNDER--
... MENTIONING THE MAN YOU MURDERED-- DR. TUGWELL!
MUSTARD
NOBODY BUT THE JOKER KNEW ABOUT HIM--!

OOHHH... AREN'T YOU THE CLEVER ONE! A PITY YOU'RE NOT A WEE BIT MORE CLEVER!
IF YOU WERE, YOU WOULDN'T WEAR MUSTARD! IT ISN'T VERY BECOMING!
--AND IT DOES TEND TO MAKE ONE BLIND-- SHALL I SAY, BLIND AS A BAT? HA HA HA!
HOUSE OF MIRRORS
I CAN'T LET THAT MANIAC ESCAPE!
I'M STILL BURNING UP OVER NOT NAILING HIM HOURS AGO... IF I'D BEEN ALERT!
SO ANY FURTHER HARM HE DOES WILL BE MY FAULT--
--AND THAT'S SOMETHING I COULDN'T LIVE WITH!
HE MUST BE IN THIS MAZE SOMEPLACE...
HERE I AM, BATTY! COME AND GET ME-- ALL OF ME! HA HA HA!
WITH THAT REVOLVING LIGHT-MACHINE THROWING CONFUSING COLORS ONTO THE MIRRORS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHAT IS REAL--
--AND WHAT IS IMAGE! AND UNTIL I DO.. I'M A SITTING DUCK!
YOU REALIZE I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, EH, BATTY? BECAUSE I HATE YOU DEEPLY...
WAIT! THERE IS A WAY--! I CAN GET HIM... BEFORE HE GETS ME!

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

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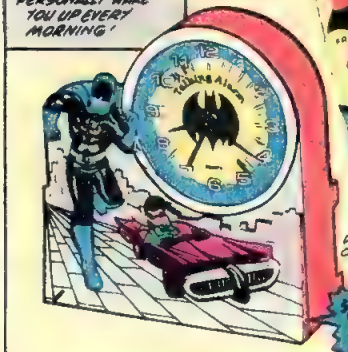

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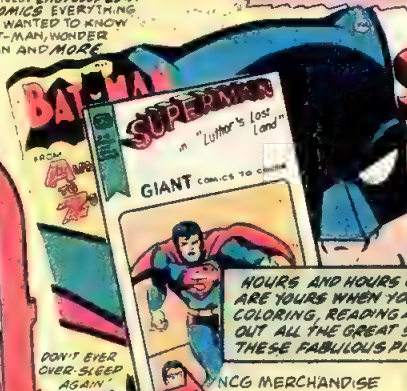

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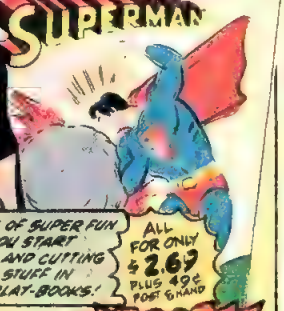

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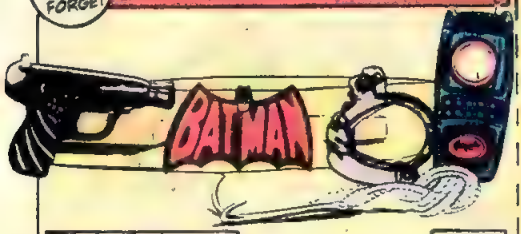

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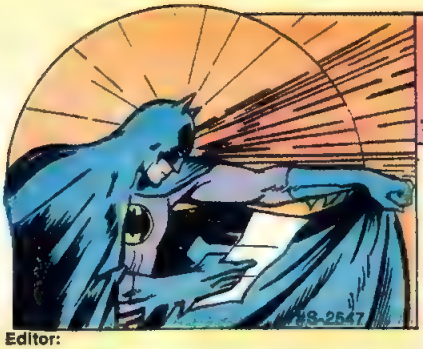
WHEN THE WHIRLING LIGHT POINTS IN THIS DIRECTION... ALL THE JOKERS BLINK! WHICH GIVES ME--
--THE CLUE I NEED TO THE REAL CLOWN!
CONFOUND YOU--!
I'LL NOT RETURN TO THAT PADDED CELL!
I'LL SQUEEZE THE BREATH FROM YOU FIRST--MUCH AS I LOATHE SUCH UNIMAGINATIVE MURDER METHODS!
ZAP!
POW!
BEAUTIFUL, BATMAN! THE NEATEST PUNCH YOU'VE EVER THROWN!
AND, AS USUAL, YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF A BRILLIANT DETECTIVE!
NOT REALLY, COMMISSIONER! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN THE JOKER WAS DISGUISED AS AN ATTENDANT...
...AS SOON AS YOU SAID THE INVITATIONS WERE ALL ACCOUNTED FOR!
HOW ELSE COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN PAST YOUR MEN?
NOW... WHERE WAS I WHEN THE BAT-SIGNAL INTERRUPTED MY PATROL LAST NIGHT?
END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN FEBRUARY



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o DC COMICS, INC.
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor:

David V. Reed is an intriguing writer. He also appears to be an intriguing person. He leaves his readers guessing madly, not only about his plot lines, but about himself as well. (You say he wrote for **Voyage to the Bottom of Sea!** is he, perhaps, Rik Vollaerts?)

And just as complexly plotted is "Four Doorways to Danger" in **BATMAN #282**. Who else can start a story on a wet corner in Gotham City and wind up in Hungary? And that's not all, because after a brief fight with the Hungarian police, he's off to Burundi!

Breathtaking, like a nerve-shocking, never-a-dull-moment novel or movie. The reader is left bursting with questions: Who? What? Where is the mysterious Dr. Nagy? Why? How? Only the "when" is clear—**BATMAN #283!**

"Four Doorways to Danger" is slowly building a backdrop of unbidden hints and possibilities and what is most fascinating is the suspenseful manner in which it is presented. And that is what makes a David V. Reed story!

ELIZABETH M. SMITH
13224 S "C", Tacoma, WA 98444

(Dave informs us that some of the names he's used over the years are Craig Ellis, Clyde Woodruff, Fulton O. Smith, and Vern Fearing—but more on his alter-egos after some words from our readers!—BR)

Dear Julie: * * * * *

"Four Doorways to Danger" is somewhat a break with the past David Reed **Batman** stories. In fact, I can't remember the last time **anyone** featured an honest-to-goodness spy thriller in the magazine. As a change of pace it was very enjoyable, even if it did owe a lot to Matt Helm and James Bond. All the classic ingredients were there: a complicated storyline, exotic locales, and a truly impressive master scheme. (Blowing up the Panama Canal? Whew!) I'm afraid we're going to find out Dave has another pseudonym—Ian Fleming!

KEVIN L. CALLAHAN
136 Eastwood Place, Brea, CA 92621

(No—that's NOT one of Dave's "alter-egos" ... especially since Mr. Fleming's been dead for over a decade!—BR)

Dear Editor: * * * * *

BATMAN #282 sported one of the finest covers in quite some time. Too bad it didn't prepare me for what lurked within.

The story was totally forgettable. Last issue held my interest, but "Four Doorways to Danger" seemed like pure filler. I'm all for continued stories, but only when they're warranted. There was too much senseless action in this one and not enough characterization and advancement of plot.

FRED G. HEMBECK
48 Custer St., Buffalo, NY 14214

(Batman goes from Hungary to Burundi, nearly gets killed in both places and ends up being shot in the head while flying the Bat-plane and you say there's no plot advancement? What more do you want—a guest appearance by The Joker?—BR)

Dear Bob, * * * * *

You fellows on the **BATMAN** team are really hopping. For the second issue in a row, this reader has been stunned, impressed, amazed and perplexed.

Never has Ernie Chua's artwork been so exciting. And Mr. Reed has been doing a splendid job displaying the multi-talented **Batman. #281** had mystery, international intrigue and action a-plenty, yet **#282** has managed to keep up the suspense and outdo the first installment! And at this rate, **BATMAN #283** will undoubtedly be the Bat-blockbuster to end all Bat-blockbusters!

CHRISTOPHER JURICICH
2116 Hillside Dr., Burlingame, CA

(And now, the absolutely, positively final installment of the "Who is David V. Reed?" game!—BR)

Dear Editor: * * * * *

Is David V. Reed really Orson Bean? Orson Bean can be spelled by using the letter from Mr. Reed's two pen names and Mr. Bean does write for television, even if most of it is comedy!

S. HOLMES
No Address Given

. . Bjorne Aslefssen? Right?

DAVID BURD
95 Brookwood Rd., Clifton, NJ 07012

. David V. Reed, alias David Vern, alias R. Bretnor?

HARRIS LENTZ III
3925 Appling Rd., Memphis, TN 38128

(No, Dave is not Orson Bean nor Bjorne Aslefssen nor science-fiction writer R. Bretnor. For your perusal, we present the following two letters, without further editorial comment!—Bob Rozakis)

Dear Batmen,

In **BATMAN #282** you said that you used David V Reed's real name in an issue of **STRANGE SPORTS STORIES!** I looked in the only issue I have, **#4**, and came up with **David Levine!**

CHRIS DOYLE
120 Andover Lane, Williamsville, NY

Who? Me?

DAVID V. REED
Brooklyn, NY

* * * * *

COMING BAT-TRACTIONS: No, we're not going to tell you—but you can find out what's coming by calling the DC Direct Currents Hotline toll-free at 800-223-7760 from anywhere in the 48 connected states, except New York, where the number is 800-442-8108. Each week one of our writer, artists or editors will be on the line with news of the Line of Super-Stars!

FREE DAILY PLANET FREE

VOLUME 77 ISSUE 2 | WEEK OF JANUARY 10, 1977 | BOB ROZAKIS, EDITOR | ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

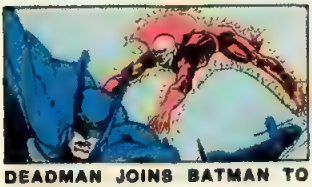
DINOSAURS INVADE 1977!

CAPTAIN COMET & TOMMY TOMORROW SPEARHEAD BATTLE TO SAVE EARTH

(JLA Headquarters)—A strange comet has ripped through the very fabric of time and left in its wake a tunnel through which dinosaurs have invaded 1977. Spearheading the war against the monstrous creatures as they appear all across the globe is *Captain Comet*—and his "helpers" are none other than the members of the *Justice League of America*.

And while the dinosaur war takes place in the present, *Tommy Tomorrow*, ace Planeteer of 2066, has been dragged back through time to battle the comet-spawned menace of *Tyrano*—the half-man/half-dinosaur.

Who is the master villain behind this awesome menace? And what's going to happen to *Tommy* if *Captain Comet* suceeds in closing the tunnel through time? Don't dare miss the all-new 34-page super-thriller when *DC SPECIAL #27* presents *DANGER. DINOSAURS AT LARGE*. It's a Bob Rozakis/Rich Buckler/Joe Rubinstein extravaganza which goes on sale the week of January 17th!



DEADMAN JOINS BATMAN TO TRAP SMUGGLER

(Gotham City)—Years ago, Achille Lazio murdered his boss and took over his smuggling operation. Today, Lazio stays outside the 3-mile territorial limit of U.S. waters so that he will not be apprehended by police for his multiplicity of crimes. *Batman's* assignment: Capture Achille Lazio!

And to do so, the Caped Crusader has decided to make Lazio believe that his long-dead victim has come back to haunt him. And who is better for aiding in this scheme than a real dead man like *Deadman*?

It's a thrill-a-minute adventure as Bob Haney and Jim Aparo present "Another Kind of Justice" in *BRAVE & BOLD #133*, on sale the week of January 17th.

GOVERNMENT AGENTS ARREST GREEN ARROW

(Coast City)—It was just a quiet dinner until government agents burst in and arrested *Green Arrow*—giving no explanations and fighting off all attempts at stopping them. But—enter *Green Lantern* to save the day . . . and then suddenly be felled by a strange space sickness.

The twists and turns of the plot will overwhelm you as the Emerald Archer discovers himself trapped in a horrifying plot and back-up *Green Lantern* transports the original to Oa, homeworld of the Guardians of the Universe. It's all in "Lure For an Assassin" by Denny O'Neil, Mike Grell and Terry Austin in *GREEN LANTERN #94*, on sale the week of January 17th.

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF JAN. 20th

HERCULES UNBOUND #10—"Water, Water, Neverwhere" is the title as *Hercules* comes face-to-face with the Atomic Knights! A Cary Bates/Walt Simonson/Bob Layton tale.

HOUSE OF SECRETS #145—A pair of chillers: "The Shark-Man Cometh" by Michael Fleisher, Russell Carley and E.R. Cruz; and "The Operation Was Successful, But . . . " by Bob Kanigher and Fred Carrillo.

SUPERBOY #226—Make way for "The Dazzling Debut of Dawnstar" by Paul Levitz, James Sherman and Jack Abel. Plus: *Brainiac 5* goes it alone in "5 Against One" by Levitz, Mike Nasser and Abel.

SUPER FRIENDS #4—The *Riddler's* back in action, but a new villain, *Skyrocket*, seems to be stealing his capers. What's going on? Find the answers in "Riddles and Rockets" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #205—Taking the title spot at last, the *Unknown Soldier* discovers that "Legends Never Die" in this Bob Haney, Dick Ayers, and Gerry Talaoc battle blockbuster. Plus: *Lt. Larry Rock* returns in "And Then There Was One!"

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BATMAN #286 (guest-starring *The Joker*)/*G.I. COMBAT #201* (now all-new and super-sized)/*STARFIRE #5*/*SUPERMAN #310*/*TEEN TITANS #47*/*WORLD'S FINEST #244* (starring *Superman & Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Arrow,* and *Black Canary* in super-sized action)

MINI-PUZZLE #1

This puzzle might be called "A Tour of DC" because in it you will find the names of many people you would see in our offices. Can you find: ADLER, BOLTINOFF, BRIDWELL, COLLETTA, FEIN, HARRIS, HARRISON, KAHN, KANIGHER, KUBERT, LEVITZ, O'NEIL, ORLANDO, ROZAKIS, SCHWARTZ, SNAPINN, and SWAN in the grid? Solution in next week's PLANET!

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4 Jeeps	8 Sharpshooters	4 Trucks
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4 Cruisers	8 Officers	8 Cannon
4 Sailors	8 Waves	4 Bazookamen
4 Riflemen	8 Wacs	4 Marksmen

Imaginary Battle Scene Shown

LUCKY PRODUCTS, INC. Dept. TN-16
BOX 536
WESTBURY, L.I., N.Y. 11590

NO C.O.D.

HERE'S MY $1.50
Rush the TOY SOLDIER SET TO ME!
If not satisfied I may return merchandise for full refund!

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Address .....

City .....State .....Zip .....

Allow 5-6 weeks for delivery.
No Canadian or foreign orders accepted!

CUT OUT, FILL IN, FOLD & SEAL (tape, staple or paste). MAIL NOW! NO STAMP NEEDED.

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN U.S.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY

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DEPT. 77NC1
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082

FIRST CLASS
Permit No. 38
ENFIELD, CT

FOLD HERE ← (DO NOT CUT). Seal closed with paste, staple or tape. MAIL NOW-NO STAMP NEEDED.

PICK THE PRIZES YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE!

Join the Olympic Sales Club and see how easy it is to get these and many other Famous Name Prizes shown in our FREE Catalog. Or, keep BIG CASH PROFITS if you'd rather — $1.00 for every box you sell! You get prizes or profits AT ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO YOU!

ALL YOU DO is sell Olympic's beautiful Everyday Selections from your FREE SAMPLE BOOK. People will be thrilled with the new Olympic line — the lovely Olympic All-Occasion Card and Note Ensemble for 1977, the All-Birthday and All-Get-Well Assortments, popular fast selling Personalized Stationery, attractive Gift Wrappings, practical Planning Calendar, smart Correspondence Note Selections, and charming Gift Items. PRICES ARE LOW — many cards cost your customers less than 10¢ each! With values like this, sales will be a snap! Sell enough boxes to get the prize you select, or keep $1.00 for each box sold.

IT'S EASY TO JOIN OLYMPIC! Just fill in the coupon below, cut out the *complete* double reply card, fold and seal as instructed, and mail. No postage is required! We'll rush you your FREE Catalog of Prizes, FREE Sample Book, FREE Membership Card, and complete details on how to get prizes or cash the easy Olympic way.

BE FIRST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD! DON'T DELAY! JOIN NOW! MAIL POSTCARD TODAY!

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ADDRESS _____

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STATE _____ ZIP _____ AGE ____

EARN FAMOUS NAME PRIZES OR EARN $1.00 A BOX CASH

SELL CARDS & GIFTS FROM **FREE** SAMPLE BOOK!

NO UNSOLD MERCHANDISE TO PAY FOR OR RETURN!

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People know and trust them from years of repeated, reliable quality.
Laura Albrecht
Nebraska

The Company trusted me. It was very easy to make $6.00 profit. I can hardly wait for my next order.
Thomas Welch
South Carolina

It was fun! I'm ordering more because I had so many customers and not enough seeds.
Thomas Brophy
New York

Money does not grow on trees but money sure does by selling American Seeds.
Cindy Mayr
Pennsylvania

April Showers wouldn't have May flowers if I didn't sell American Seeds.
Patty Karlin
New York

The customer received a quality product which he wanted and I got the prize of my choice, which I wanted.
Eric Ritzenthaler
Ohio

They have E.S.P. (Easy Selling Power).
Kevin Jones
Missouri

When I was in need of money, American Seeds were by my side.
Michael Donnelly
New Jersey

The link between quality and American Seeds never breaks. And so, the link between me and earning great prizes never breaks.
Andy Meisel
Kansas

INSTANT LOAD CAMERA

3-SPEED BIKES

MICROSCOPE SETS

ROLLER DERBY SKATES

ALL PURPOSE SHOES

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MODEL ROCKETRY

COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS

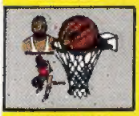
MAGIC SET

STOPWATCH

WRIST WATCHES

BIKE SPEEDOMETER

BASEBALL GLOVES



BASKETBALL & GOAL

TRANSISTOR RADIO

30-POWER TELESCOPE

4-PLAYER BADMINTON

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CROQUET SET

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☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

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Address_____

Town_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

AMERICAN SEED CO., 35 N. Prince St., Dept. 733, Lancaster, Pa. 17604

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 45 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 40¢ a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds ☐ All Vegetable Seeds ☐ Mixed Vegetable and Flower Seeds

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Address_____

Town_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

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